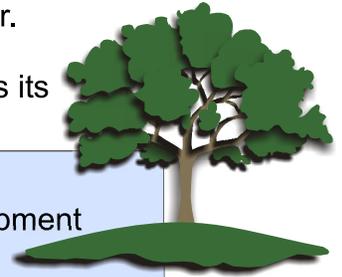


Parks Master Plan Nearing Completion

The Parks Department is nearing completion on a new master plan to guide future development, acquisition and renovation of the city's park system. On July 31, over 100 people attended a public meeting to review the draft plan and provide feedback and comments. The Parks Department hopes to have the new plan approved by the Parks Board and City Council in November.

The draft plan, as outlined in the public meeting, calls for the Department to focus its efforts around the following strategies:

- Re-invest in our existing parks
- Emphasize linear and neighborhood park acquisition and development
- Actively encourage volunteer and partnership opportunities
- Provide environmental leadership by reducing our use of chemicals, fertilizers, and natural resources; preserve floodplain and the remaining environmentally significant properties; and implement sustainable building practices in new park development
- Invest in our aging recreation center facilities
- Emphasize accessibility and connectivity from our parks into our neighborhoods and community centers
- Remain progressive with the development of off-leash areas, skateboard facilities, and community gardens



The Parks Department wants to continue to provide this community with a first class park system that significantly enhances both the quality of life enjoyed by the citizens and the economic vitality of the community. We believe that by pursuing these strategies, we can do both.

For more information, please contact Gordon Robertson, Assistant director Park Planner, at 817-459-5478.



Bad Königshofen Pool Planning Begins

Planning for the long awaited community aquatic facility in southwest Arlington is at last under way. The project was funded through two bond elections, 1994 and 1997. "We've been working on this for quite some time," reports Aquatic Program Manager Kym Lange. "Our customers in that part of the city have been very patient. We think this will be a very popular center, much like Randol Mill." Lange is careful to point out that it will be a different kind of aquatic facility than Randol Mill, however. "We'll do some careful market research before we make planning and design decisions. This industry is very dynamic. New ideas and trends are introduced all the time. We'll look at these things and make sure they are addressed."

Parks staff members are currently interviewing three design firms for consideration. They hope to have a consultant hired by September. "We need to begin this process now," Lange describes. "This will take a while and we want to be open for business by the spring of 2005."

The center will be located in the northwest section of S.J. Stovall Park on Sublett Road. It is named after Arlington's sister city of Bad Königshofen, Germany. For additional information, please contact Kym Lange at 817-459-5481.



CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS UPDATE:

HAROLD PATTERSON SOCCER FIELD RENOVATIONS

Two soccer fields at Harold Patterson were recently renovated according to Parks Golf Superintendent Evonne Sandas. "The fields have been regraded... crowned for drainage, and we have imported new soils. These soils are much more suitable for a healthy turf. We've sprigged them with a hybrid Bermuda and hope to be ready for play in the fall. These are pretty old fields. The drainage is not what it once was and the turf is thin. Our players will see an immediate improvement."

For more information, please contact John Fain, Park Planner, at 817-459-5478.



Two fields have been regraded and crowned for drainage with new soil.

HOWARD MOORE PARK POOL

In March of 2001, the Arlington City Council authorized the construction of a shallow water play pool in Howard Moore Park to replace the existing neighborhood pool. The park is approximately 10 acres in size and is located in central Arlington behind Davis Elementary School.

Construction of the aquatic facility began in August 2002 and was completed in May 2003. Project improvements included a new shallow water pool that integrates one large water play structure, multiple shade components, a new restroom/office building and parking lot renovation.

For more information, please contact De'Onna Garner, Assistant Park Planner, at 817-459-6937.

The pool has successfully completed its first season of operation. According to Aquatics Program Manager, Kym Lange, "The facility was the number one rental facility for the season and has generated positive net revenue during its first operating season." This project was designed with a tremendous amount of citizen input and will hopefully serve the needs of the surrounding neighborhood for many years to come.



RIVER LEGACY PARKS TRAIL CONNECTION

The last link in Arlington's pedestrian trail system along the Trinity River will soon be complete. Construction has begun on a \$2.4 million project that will include a new parking lot off Collins and connect nearly eight miles of trail in River Legacy Parks. The project's centerpiece is a nearly 300 foot long pedestrian bridge across the river scheduled to be constructed in October. "This project is certainly one of our most important on a regional scale," said Assistant Parks Director Gordon Robertson. "It will open the park to many more visitors throughout the Metroplex." The site will be open to the public in the spring of 2004.

For more information, please contact John Fain, Park Planner, at 817-459-5478.



Clearing for the new trail.

WEBB COMMUNITY PARK

Construction is underway at the newly acquired Webb Community Park in southeast Arlington. Although the first phase of development will only impact a small portion of the 140 acre park, residents in this part of town are anxiously awaiting its completion. Named after the old community of Webb, a 19th century settlement, the park will include a trail system, pond with fishing dock, picnic facilities, playground, practice athletic fields, and parking lot. It is scheduled to open in December.

For more information, please contact John Fain, Park Planner, at 817-459-5478.



Fishing dock under construction.